VERMONT

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vvorkrorce Development Council

Executive Committee

1/11/10

Meeting Notes

- 1) Update on Education / Economic Development Meeting Chip attended the discussion at the House Ed Committee on the Act 38 Report that was developed over the summer. Karrin Wilkes presented the report to the Committee. A copy was provided. The basic message is that "For Vermont to thrive economically it must develop, attract and retain a well educated and skilled citizenry who will enable the recruitment and retention of successful businesses and support healthy communities." The report points to improving the outcomes of the publically funded education system across the board, Pre K 16, pointing out that all secondary students should be prepared for success in college and that postsecondary completion rates should be substantially improved. John pointed out that this approach is equally relevant for adult and continuing education programs, and that these programs can have a fairly immediate impact on the workforce. Tim pointed out that the charge in Act 38 is to remove barriers in the system that prevent individuals from achieving educational outcomes that prepare them for life and good jobs.
- **2) Plan agenda for Winter meeting on Wednesday Feb. 24 -** The Committee discussed the major components of the Winter Council meeting. Some elements agreed to include time for Armando to present school transformation from a workforce development perspective, an Innovations Roundtable that would highlight new and interesting training practices in the State, and a report on State and Federal training programs over the past year. Chip will develop a draft and circulate it for comment.
- **3) Update on WETF and VTP Training Fund Balances –** Pat reported that demand for skill training from employers remains strong and that at mid-year, were it not for the requirement that some WETF funds be held back and made available in each quarter, funding would already be fully obligated. The VTP is about ¾ obligated. In both programs there has been a shift to more incumbent

ew hires, but clearly, there are employers across from skill shortages.

- **4) Discussion of Green Sector Training:** Chip Described the Central Vermont Community Action Council's VtGreen Grant and explained that he had included \$100,000 over two years for community level outreach to potential employers through WIBs and RDCs. Exactly how this is to be done remains to be developed, but will probably utilize techniques developed in several regions and for other sectors.
- **5) IECE Green Building Draft Report -** A draft report was circulated with the caveat that it has not yet been reviewed by DOL and DOE staff. Job growth projections in the report that are quoted from a national study do not seem realistic for Vermont, however business interest in workforce development was strong and provides a good basis for moving forward.